

From the Desk of ...



Congressman Dan Lungren *California*

July 10, 2006

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Dear Friends,

I would like to invite you to attend my next Town Hall Meeting, to be held at Rio Vista City Hall on Saturday, July 8 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The meeting will take place in the City Council Chambers at One Main Street, Rio Vista, CA 94571.

The question of immigration continues to be one of the most significant issues facing Congress. In assessing the effectiveness of immigration policy, it is helpful to look at both the "push factors" and the "pull factors" which contribute to the phenomenon of illegal immigration. Also, we cannot neglect the importance of enforcing immigration laws already in place.

In assessing the "push factors" we must not overlook the role of the Government of Mexico. On a human level, it is a sad fact that people are motivated to make what is often a dangerous trek north to the United States because of the absence of economic opportunity in Mexico itself. This flow of illegal immigration into the United States acts as a "pressure relief valve" by allowing the Mexican government to escape political accountability to those it has failed.

Ironically, the Mexican government's laissez faire attitude towards immigration out of Mexico is not reflected in its policy concerning its own southern border. When you hear the President of Mexico and other Mexican politicians rail against the House border control bill, keep in mind that when it comes to their own border policies, all of the rhetoric concerning the right to migration is suddenly nowhere to be found.

In the end, the Mexican government's policy will prove to be shortsighted and will ultimately cause serious damage to its own country. Imagine the long term effects of a nation losing millions of its hardest working younger people. The future of Mexico is sending its own government a clear and unmistakable message of "Adios" as they vote with their feet.

Furthermore, when one factors Mexico's demographic future into the equation, a dire picture emerges. According to an article by Philip Longman in the May/June issue of Foreign Affairs..."Mexican fertility rates have dropped so dramatically, the country is now aging five times faster than is the United States. It took 50 years for the American median age to rise just five years, from 30 to 35. By contrast, between 2000 and 2050, Mexico's median age, according to UN projections, will increase by 20 years, leaving half the population over 42. Meanwhile, the median American age in 2050 is expected to be 39.7." Thus, ultimately illegal immigration from Mexico into the United States is not good for either Mexico or the United States.

According to the Associated Press, President Fox has characterized the House Immigration bill as "stupid." To his credit the same AP story quoted President Fox as acknowledging that his government must "generate opportunities here in Mexico." However, it is the responsibility of

the United States government to control our border and to take action to reduce the "pull factors" which draw people to the United States. We must demagnetize the attraction of illegal employment in the United States. Unfortunately, our track record reflects a failure of governmental policy on our side of the border as well.

It is essential for us to significantly increase enforcement along our border and adopt a workable system of sanctions against employers who hire illegal aliens.

For more information on immigration and other issues, please visit my website at www.lungren.house.gov or call my Gold River office at 916-859-9906.

I look forward to seeing you at the Town Hall Meeting on Saturday.

Sincerely,



Daniel E. Lungren

Member of Congress

**Town Hall Meeting
Saturday July 8, 2006**

10:00 a.m. – Noon
Rio Vista City Hall
City Council Chambers
One Main Street
Rio Vista, CA 94571

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